AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of recording and reproducing information in which a recording area of a recording medium is physically divided into plurality of blocks and each block is partitioned into plurality of pages comprising steps of:

recording and erasing information in one or more ~~at least one of the~~ pages in blocks of the plurality of blocks;

allocating a specific area having a frequently changing information to at least one page in one block of the plurality of blocks, wherein pages in said one block each contain an area for recording area management information including information indicating an unused area, an allocated area, a disabled area, or an ordinary recording area; and

disabling remaining pages in said one block when said allocating step allocates the frequently changing information to said at least one page in said one block, wherein said remaining pages include at least one page,

wherein the frequently changing information is managing data recorded in the recording medium or root directory information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, wherein the at least one page is provided with an area for recording area management information including information indicating that the specific area has been allocated, information indicating the disablement of the page although unused, information indicating an unused area, and information indicating an ordinary recording area.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 3, further comprising steps of:

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recording of information into the recording medium;

allocating an unused block to a logical space and recording information into said one block;

reading and modifying contents of the data management area in the recording medium;

recording the modified data management area into another unused block in the recording medium; and

erasing the data management area before modified, and turning said one block where the data management area before modified has resided, into the unused block.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 3, further comprising steps of:

erasing of information in the recording medium;

reading and modifying contents of the data management area in the recording medium;

recording the modified data management area into an unused block in the recording medium;

erasing the data management area before modified, and turning said one block where the data management area before modified has resided, into the unused block; and

erasing the information to be deleted, and turning said one block where the information has resided, into the unused block.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, wherein said one block contains the page corresponding to a FAT area, information a high-speed recording area (0x55) is recorded into the area management information in the page corresponding to the FAT area.

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12.   (Previously Presented)   The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 6, further comprising recording a logical address in a logical address part in each page.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, wherein said allocating the specific area distinguishes the specific area having a frequently changing information from an ordinary data area, so as to reduce amount of data modification of the specific area.

14.   (New) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, wherein

said allocating step records an area management information with information indicating an allocated area, for said at least one page, and

said disabling step records an area management information with information indicating a disabled area, for each of said remaining pages.

15.   (New) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, wherein each page in said one block contains an area for recording area management information including information indicating

an unused area which indicates the area is available for writing data

an allocated area which indicates an area where a frequently changing information is recorded,

a disabled area which indicates an area made to be in a disabled state in order to allocate only frequently changing information to other pages in said one block, or a disabled area which indicates an area in a disabled state due to damage, or

an ordinary recording area which indicates an area where ordinary data other than a frequently changing information is recorded.

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16.　　(New) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, wherein said area management information is represented by a hexadecimal code.

17.　　(New) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, wherein pages in said one block other than pages where the frequently changing information is allocated are neither used for data storage nor allocated to the logical space.

18.　　(New) The method of recording and reproducing information according to claim 1, further comprising assigning a logical address to each page in said one block.

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